

Margaret Hanson - Owner of Cottage Bakery, Teach to Taste

As a cottage baker and food educator in Michigan's Copper Country, I see the value of expanding the financial opportunity for cottage law producers. Over 95% of our foods are brought into our communities in the Western UP. COVID-19 has been a roller coaster for consumers and producers these last few years. Allowing local food producers to expand their production to meet the intense demand makes for a thriving business and supports our local food system. Why are there so many cottage bakers and producers in the Western UP? What keeps them cooking out of their home instead of out of a certified kitchen? There are very few opportunities within driving distance to cook in a certified kitchen facility and food costs are high in the Western UP, making a marketable product at a price point that consumers are comfortable with, a challenge. Being able to expand a viable food business with low-risk foods online can both meet the local food demand and give that business owner the opportunity to reach other customers beyond our small community willing to pay the premium.